

REMARKS

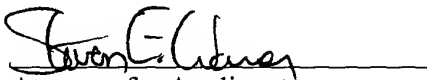
Applicants request favorable consideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 25-34 are presented for consideration. Claim 25 is independent. Claims 1-20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for claims 25-34 can be found in the original application, as filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Applicants submit that independent claims 25-34 patentably define features of the projection exposure apparatus and the device manufacturing method of the present invention. Applicants submit, therefore, that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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